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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

WATH

(North Riding of Yorkshire)

ANNUAL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1966



WATH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1966

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor F. S. Foster, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor N. Kendall

Members of the Housing, Planning and Health Committee:

Councillor J. Brocklebank, M.B.E., J.P., (Chairman)

" T. Barker,

" T. English, J.P.

" F.S. Foster,

" G. Frank,

" S.R. Fryer,

" J.F. Graham,

" N. Kendall,

" Mrs. A.S. Sellars,

" J.C. Webster,

" I. Wells.

Officers of the Council:

Clerk of the Council:

W.C. Eden, 7, Park Street, Ripon. Tele. Ripon 3576.

Medical Officer of Health:

H. Gray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., Manor Road, Easingwold. Tele. Easingwold 324.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

R.D.A. Robinson, M.A.P.H.I., 7, Park Street, Ripon. Tele. Ripon 3576.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1966

To the Chairman and Members

of the Wath Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

It is again my privilege to present my annual report to the Council.

It is inevitable that with a small population statistics can be very misleading and this year the four stillbirths recorded in so few births send all the rates to high levels.

The large fall in estimated population is due to the closure of the R.A.F. Station foreshadowed in my previous report.

It is pleasing to record the completion of a major sewerage scheme at Dishforth and to know that the Council will continue to extend modern services to the smaller villages. The growth of traffic on the A.1. trunk road and the extension of catering facilities resulting, has created a problem in sewage disposal which it is hoped will be cleared up shortly.

I would again place on record my appreciation for the help and co-operation afforded by members and staff of the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GRAY,

M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Description

The Rural District of Wath is situate on the extreme South-West corner of the North Riding of Yorkshire and is on the borders of the West Riding. It lies in the Vale of York and is extremely flat. The area is predominantly agricultural in character, the land being of excellent quality.

The area is bounded on the East by the River Swale and on the West by the River Ure. Neighbouring authorities are the Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural District Council, Bedale Rural District Council, Thirsk Rural District Council and Easingwold Rural District Council.

Statistics

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1966)	..	..	2440								
Number of dwelling houses in the District.	a.	Privately Owned	..	..	543						
	b.	Council Houses	..	..	145						
	c.	Service Married Quarters			48						
Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,007
Number of Parishes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£114,347
Estimated product of a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£318-0-0d

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	18	15	33
Illegitimate	1	1	2

Live birth rate 14.4. (Corrected by factor 0.96) 17.0. England and Wales - 13.9.
 Illegitimate live births per cent of total births - 6%

Still Births - There were 4 stillbirths in the year.

Infant Deaths - (deaths under 1 year) - 1 in a child of less than 1 week old.

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births				- 29.	(England & Wales - 19.0)
Legitimate	"	"	legitimate	"	- 30.
Illegitimate	"	"	illegitimate	"	- Nil.

Neo-natal Mortality rate	{	deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	- 29
Early Neo-natal " "	{	" " 1 week " " " " "	- 29
Peri-natal " "	{	stillbirths and deaths under 1 week/1,000 births	-128

Maternal Mortality - (including abortion)

Number of deaths - Nil
 Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths - Nil

Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from			
all causes	12	8	20
Rate per 1,000 population	8.2.	{ Correction Factor 1.41 } Corrected 11.6. (England and Wales 11.7)	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Notifications were received of 13 cases of measles, one of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of food poisoning, this latter was connected with a large outbreak affecting people scattered throughout the county.

Registrar General's Returns

Diseases	1965		1966		1966 Total
	M	F	M	F	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-
4. Diphtheria	-
5. Whooping cough	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-
8. Measles	-
9. Other infective and parasitic conditions	-
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	-
11. " " lung	-
12. " " breast	-
13. " " uterus	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-
15. Benign neoplasms, elsewhere	-
16. Diabetes	-
17. Vascular diseases, elsewhere	-
18. Coronary diseases, elsewhere	-
19. Hypertension with or without heart disease	-
20. Other heart diseases	-
21. Other circulatory diseases	-
22. Influenza	-
23. Pneumonia	-
24. Bronchitis	-
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-
28. Hepatitis and nephritis	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-
31. Congenital malformations	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-
34. All other accidents	-
35. Suicide	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-
Totals					20

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BULMER AREA

The Bulmer Area is one of ten such areas, into which the County Council is divided for convenience of day to day administration of the Health Services. It is made up of the four Rural Districts of Easingwold, Flaxton, Thirsk and Wath, and contributes the south-west corner of the Riding, with an area of some 400 square miles and a population of 63,070. The population immediately to the north of York is comparatively dense, but away from this suburban belt, is fairly evenly distributed in small townships and villages.

The Area County Offices at Easingwold are shared with Welfare, Mental Health, Children's, Highways and Planning Departments.

Your Medical Officer of Health holds appointments with the four Rural Districts and with the Health and Education Committees of the County Council.

Two of the full time Medical Officers are employed largely in the area, Dr. Eggleton with the mobile Child Welfare Clinics, and Dr. Gowans in school work. A number of general practitioners carry out sessional work in village clinics.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton is available for bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream, and specimens taken during the investigation of infectious diseases. A weekly collection round for water and other samples is a useful service undertaken. Some use is also made of the facilities offered by the laboratories of the County Hospital at York, and an additional service is provided in the examination of smears taken by the newly instituted Cervical Cytology Service.

Ambulance Service

Two stations, at Haxby and Thirsk, serve the area, with some co-operation with adjoining authorities at York and the West Riding. All vehicles are radio-equipped, and in addition to normal hospital and casualty work, a service is provided to the Education Authority and to the local Health Authority.

Child Welfare

The County Council have three purpose-built clinics, at Easingwold, Thirsk and Huntingdon. Dental services are available at the first two. These premises are increasingly used for the various activities of the Health and Education services.

Child Welfare clinics are held at 22 centres in the area, the mobile clinic attending at 12 of these. The remainder are premises ranging from good to less satisfactory. Approximately 90% of children born in the area attend during the first two years of life, many of them having the various immunisation procedures carried out. Welfare foods and proprietary infant and vitamin preparations are on sale at these clinics, and as the proprietary foods are sold at considerably less than retail shop prices, this service is of some direct financial help to the families. The choice of which particular foods are purchased at each clinic from the great variety which is available is left to the health visitor and doctor at each clinic, and little difficulty arises from the considerable financial transactions entailed. Much of the work in our clinics is carried out by voluntary helpers who deserve an annual vote of thanks in this report.

Nursing Services

In the more rural parts of the area, generalised duties nurses are employed, undertaking midwifery, home nursing and health visiting. In some cases this almost amounts to the much advocated attachment of a nurse to a medical practice.

Where the population is more concentrated, health nursing is carried out by nurses engaged solely in this field, leaving the duties of nursing and midwifery to "combined duties" nurses. A further division of duties has been tried, but this has not been entirely successful in this rural area.

At the end of the year, the following staff were employed:

	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Part Time</u>
Health visitors	5	3
Generalised duties	9	1
Home nurses, midwifery	4	
Midwifery	1	
Home nursing		2

<u>Vaccination & Immunisation</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Bulmer area - total population	60,270	61,130	62,360	63,100	63,070
No. of live births in area	1,146	1,209	1,242	1,168	1,114
Children vaccinated against smallpox in year	1,676	330	598	702	709
Children immunised against diphtheria (primary)	970	1,111	910	1,174	1,050
" " " " (booster)	388	486	710	708	975
Children immunised against whooping cough	1,109	987	902	1,150	1,013
Children completing primary polio course				1,195	1,037
Children completing tetanus course					1,189

These figures are very reassuring and demonstrate that a high proportion of children in the area benefit from these preventive measures.

Welfare Foods

National dried milk, orange juice, cod liver oil, and vitamin tablets are supplied at the Health Office and most clinics. In addition, a declining number of shopkeepers sell these products on a non-profit making basis. Sales appear to fall by some 10% annually, no doubt due to the more attractive presentation of proprietary equivalents, and to advertising, which results in increasing sales of these. There will, no doubt, sooner or later, be a point beyond which the welfare food system in its present form will cease to be economically sound.

Domestic Help Service

Again a decline is seen in the number of maternity cases attended, and an increase in hours worked in other categories.

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Maternity	19	16	9	7
Chronic sick, aged, etc.	124	134	122	123
Others	14	11	11	13
Hours worked	27,613	28,140	28,511	32,076

All 77 home helps employed are part time employees.

Chiropody

This service has continued unchanged. Three part-time Chiropodists are employed in 12 centres. There has been a small increase of domiciliary cases where it is impossible to transport these cases to a clinic. As at the Infant Welfare clinics, considerable assistance is given by voluntary helpers in clerical work, transport, and in other ways.

Care and After Care

Apparatus and nursing aids are provided on loan to patients, on a short time basis. For incontinent patients a supply of incontinence pads and similar aids are provided.

A pint of milk daily is given to patients suffering from tuberculosis on the recommendation of the Chest Physician.

Family Planning

Sessions have continued at Thirsk and Huntington by the Family Planning Association, and it would seem that it will increasingly be the duty of local authorities to increase the facilities available in this field. The number of births in the Bulmer Area has fallen over the past two years, thus reversing a trend which has been evident for quite a few years up to the peak year of 1964.

Cervical Cytology

This is carried out as a routine procedure at hospitals where women attend the obstetric and gynaecological departments, and it is customary to take the cervical smear at Family Planning Clinics. The County Council inaugurated special clinics at Thirsk, Huntington and Easingwold during the year, and requests for this examination were very heavy at first. Numbers are now falling off, and it will require some more extensive health education in this direction, in order to achieve a high proportion of women, particularly those in whom cancer of the cervix tends to have a high incidence, attending for the simple routine test.

Nursery & Child Minders Regulations Act, 1948

The local authority makes no provisions for day nurseries and nursery schools within the area. Occasional use is made of day nursery accommodation in York. A number of premises and persons are registered by the County Council after satisfying the authorities on standards prescribed, and are regularly supervised.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC

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HEALTH INSPECTOR

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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for 1966

To the Chairman and Members of the Wath Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting this, my fourth Annual Report.

During the year Dishforth Village was completely re-sewered and a new sewage treatment plant built. Plans for similar capital works for Cundall are well advanced and work should begin during 1967.

A new Bedford van was purchased for work in connection with maintenance of Sewage Works and Council Housing, and whilst this has given satisfactory service, it has become evident that further transport is required, particularly for sewage works maintenance.

Again, no new housing schemes were undertaken this year although the position is constantly under review, and there is a possibility that a few additional bungalows for elderly people may be needed in the near future.

Duties carried out by me include housing management, management of sewage disposal schemes and their construction, food inspection, pest control, building regulation inspections, petroleum spirit licensing and enforcement of public health and welfare legislation.

I would like to express my thanks to all members of the Council and staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

R.D.A. ROBINSON
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Water Supplies

During the year 35 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and 3 of these were found to be unsatisfactory.

Sewage Disposal

As in previous years unsatisfactory samples of sewage effluent continued to be taken by the Yorkshire Ouse and Hull River Authority Inspector from Middleton Quernhow, Hutton Conyers, Cundall, Marton-le-Moor and Baldersby St, James. The only satisfactory samples were taken from Wath, Baldersby, Asenby, Rainton and Dishforth.

Work on the new scheme at Dishforth was, with the exception of a few smaller items, completed by December.

Progress on this scheme was good until mid-summer when the Contractors ran into financial difficulties and from then on progress was extremely slow. Rectification of unsatisfactory work has only been carried out after many reminders by myself and the Council's Consulting Engineer.

The new works were slow to settle down and it was some months after their coming into operation before a satisfactory effluent was obtained.

All farmers in Dishforth Village were visited prior to the installation of the new scheme and all expressed the opinion that they did not wish to have farm effluents treated because of the cost involved.

Towards the end of the year most of them had made some progress to remove their effluents from the old sewerage system and it is anticipated that all concerned will have complied with the Council's requests before the spring of 1967.

The Council's Consulting Engineer is now well advanced with the preparation of a new treatment scheme for Cundall, and it is anticipated that this scheme will begin during 1967.

Milk and Dairies

There are nine registered distributors of milk serving the area. Three of these are resident within the area and six deliver from surrounding districts. A few farmers also provide employees with milk direct from the farm.

Ice-Cream

Six premises within the district are licensed to sell ice-cream. All obtain ice-cream pre-packed from manufacturers and store it in modern deep-freeze cabinets until sold. Two or three vans from outside the area retail ice-cream during the summer months. There are no manufacturing premises.

Food Hygiene

There are 7 food shops, 7 licensed premises and 2 cafes in the area, and with one exception the standard of food hygiene in these establishments proved to be good.

During the year 60 inspections were made at these premises and a large proportion of these concerned a large transport cafe on the A.1. trunk road. The standard of food hygiene at this establishment was very lax and despite many visits and warnings by myself the owner did nothing to significantly improve matters.

After a lengthy report and discussion, the Council decided to prosecute and eleven charges were brought against the owner under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. All the charges were admitted and the owner of the premises was fined a total of £110 plus costs.

Since this action was taken, a great improvement has been noticed.

During the year one case of food poisoning was reported and this originated from outside the area.

Public Cleansing

The collection of household refuse is still let out to contract and the system continues to work very well. Collection takes place once a fortnight with the exception of 48 married quarters at Dishforth R.A.F. Station, which are collected weekly.

The cost of cleansing for the year amounted to £1109-12-4d or the equivalent of 3.489d. in the £.

During the year complaints have been received from the Police Training College at Dishforth R.A.F. Station that large amounts of refuse are accumulating which are too much to be removed during the once weekly collection. The Council's refuse removal Contractors have been asked to quote for twice weekly removal, and it is hoped that this will be brought into operation during the next financial year.

Pest Control

In the year under review 2 business and 1 domestic premises were serviced. A total of 181 visits and inspections were made during the year to investigate complaints, deal with any infestations and by way of survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

All the Council's sewers and sewage works are serviced regularly four times a year.

The Council are also under contract to the North Riding County Council to service litter bins on lay-bys on all main roads throughout the area.

Topcliffe Fair

This annual event was again well attended by gipsies and travelling dealers of all kinds. Contact was established with the "head gipsy" and his co-operation received and as a result latrines and refuse pits were dug and to a large extent used. The agent acting for the owners arranged for the whole site to be cleaned and limed within a few days of the end of the horse fair and also restricted the stay of the caravans.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

There are 11 premises within the area to which the Act applies.

11 inspections of the premises concerned were carried out and the owners were informed of work required to bring their premises up to the required standard.

Factory Inspection

The type of factory for which we are responsible is that where there is no power operated plant. Where power operated plant is in use, we are only responsible for sanitary accommodation.

There are no large works in the area but eight small premises are classed as factories. They are:-

- 2 Agricultural Engineers
- 2 Automobile Engineers
- 1 Grain Drying Plant
- 2 Joiners Shops
- 1 Concrete Block Manufacturer

During the year minor infringements were rectified without resorting to any formal notices.

Public Conveniences

Following requests from the Ministry of Transport and the County Council, the Council considered the construction of Public Conveniences on the A.1. trunk road north of Baldersby Roundabout. It was decided that these should be erected subject to satisfactory investigations being made to find the most suitable type of installation.

After several different types of treatment had been considered, it was decided that Elsan chemical closets be installed in a pre-cast concrete structure. It was felt that this was the only suitable type of treatment for such an isolated position and the pre-cast concrete structure would to some extent counteract vandalism.

The estimated cost of the proposed work is £3,900 and work is due to begin as soon as the North Riding County Council have constructed a new and suitable lay-by on the northbound carriageway.

Council Housing

No new houses were built during the year but the Council did begin works of alteration to four sub-standard houses which they purchased from British Railways at Melmerby Station.

Work was begun in February and continued spasmodically throughout the year. Despite many promptings by myself, the Contractor did little to accelerate the rate of progress and much of the work had to be renewed due to poor workmanship in the first instance.

Small items are still outstanding at the end of 1966, and it is hoped these will be cleared up without further delay.

The cost of repairs for the year ending 31st March, 1967, was £1664-0-0d or £11-9-6d per house.

Supervision and management over the same period was, including special expenses (£94-0-0d), £652-0-0d or £4-9-10d per house.

At the end of the year there were 15 applications for Council Bungalows and 20 applications for Council Houses.

Improvement Grants - Discretionary

During the year grants were approved in respect of 2 dwellinghouses, and the total number of houses which have received or are about to receive grant aid now amounts to 93. The total grant aid approved amounted to £515-0-0d.

Improvement Grants - Standard

During 1966 applications for standard grants have been approved in respect of 7 dwellings, bringing the total since the inception of the scheme to 45. The work of providing standard amenities has been completed in two cases and grants totalling £1273-0-0d approved.

Housing (Financial & Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1938 - 1946

No applications for grant aid under these provisions were received during the year.

Private Housing

5 houses were completed during the year for private individuals.

Building Plans

On 1st February the Building Regulations replaced the Building Byelaws as the official standards for building control.

44 plans were examined and passed under the provisions of the Building Regulations and 3 under the provisions of the Building Byelaws.

44 applications for planning consent were received, 42 of these were approved and 2 rejected.

Amenities in Houses

The following table shows that out of a total of 725 houses in the district only 20 (2.7) do not have water closets. Even this figure is not a true reflection as it includes several empty houses which are unable to be re-let in their present condition and subsequent improvements would entail the fixing of a W.C.

Parish	Acreage	Total Number of Houses	Number without W.C's
Asenby	1,179	60	4
Baldersby	1,831	82	5
Cundall-with-Leckby	2,052	37	2
Dishforth	1,765	158	3
Hutton Conyers	3,212	63	3
Marton-le-Moor	1,679	43	-
Melmerby	1,139	90	-
Middleton Quernhow	763	23	1
Norton Conyers	1,042	17	-
Rainton-with-Newby	1,578	99	-
Wath	767	64	2

The number of houses includes for some on which there are Closing Orders and also 48 married quarters at Dishforth Aerodrome.

The population of 2440 is estimated by the Registrar General for mid-1966, and this gives a density of 3.31 persons per dwelling.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 TO 1959

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector in respect of the year 1966 for the rural district of Wath in the county of Yorkshire (North Riding).

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	8	16	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - 0.

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork - (Sections 110 - 111) - Nil Return.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	-	3	3
Retail Shops	-	1	1
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	3	3
Fuel Storage Depots	-	3	3

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

11

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	5
Retail Shops	2
Wholesale departments, warehouses	5
Catering establishments open to the public	21
Canteens	-
Fuel Storage Depots	5
Total	38
Total Males	13
Total Females	25

There were no exemptions or prosecutions during the year.

INSPECTORS

No. of inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act - 1.

No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act - Nil.

